

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Westwind Barn

Halloween Horse Show

Pacific Ridge Pony Club hosts its 14th annual Halloween Horse Show on Saturday October 27, 2007 at Westwind Barn; 27210 Altamont Road Los Altos Hills.

This spooktacular event has been attracting horsewomen and men from around the Bay area for 14 years and is well attended by riders and non-riders. The highlight of the show is the costume class where riders and their horses regal themselves in different costumes and compete for different awards. Games, trail classes, hunter hacks, and jumping classes are also part of the program.

This event is great for those schooling their horses or those learning the ins and outs of horse shows. It is also a great way to enjoy the Hills in autumn and the beauty of Byrne Preserve and Westwind Community Barn.

For more information, contact JaneKawasaki: janekawa@pacbell.net; 650-947-9104



L. to R.: Rider Alexander Chow, second rider from left unknown, third rider from left, Rachael Kawasaki riding Spot on Tony and fourth rider from left Claire O'Connell riding Custom Paint Job.

Westwind Barn 30th Anniversary Event - Plans Underway for 2008

Plans are underway for a Westwind and Wineries event that will familiarize our community with the wonders and needs of Westwind Barn. This will be the 3rd time that Hills 2000 - Friends of the Hills and the Friends of Westwind have collaborated in sponsoring a winemakers' event. This event will be especially significant because the Town is also celebrating the 30th anniversary of the founding of Westwind Barn. How appropriate then to focus on our wonderful facility and to pair it with the newest enterprise in Los Altos Hills — winemaking. (The tentative date proposed is March 30 2008, with a rain date of April 6th to be confirmed in the December '07 Town Newsletter.)



At this time, you can help by telling us about any winemakers in Town that you know. We are interested in anyone who either grows the grapes in Town, or makes the wine here with grapes grown elsewhere. You can ask them if they are interested, or just let us know who you have in mind and we'll do the asking.

Finally, would you like to work on this with us? We expect to have a lot of fun!

Please contact either Elayne Dauber at epubdauber@sbcglobal.net; or Valerie Metcalfe at metcalfes@att.net.

"Meet the Taaffes—LAH's Pioneer Family" at Historical Society Sept. 30 meeting

The Historical Society's September 30 meeting, 3-5 pm at Town Hall, will feature Arline Reed-Taaffe and Linda Taaffe, speaking about life when the town was their family ranch. Living here since Elizabeth Yuba Murphy received land from her father when she married William Post Taaffe in the 1850s, the family has used the property to graze cattle, grow wheat and as headquarters for their construction company. The family established some of the first orchards and schools in Santa Clara County. A discussion and refreshment period follows the formal part of the meeting.

For information about the Historical Society, please call 650-961-8859.

Planning Commission



Bart Carey, MD,
Planning Commission Chairman



John Harpoottian,
Vice Chairman Planning Commission

At the August 2, 2007 Planning Commission meeting Bart Carey was elected the new Chairman and John Harpoottian the Vice Chairman. Their term is for one year each.

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

Speaking out on Rodent Control

Sharing your home with rats can be frightening and we sometimes seek a quick solution to keep our family safe. But using rat poison jeopardizes the safety of our children, our pets, and our local wildlife. According to Poison Control Center data, more than 15,000 children under the age of six accidentally eat rat poison every year. Pets have also been known to find and eat rat poison, as well as consume poisoned rodents.



Wildlife eats the poison when they find it left outdoors, and predators eat the poison by eating poisoned rats. Anti-coagulant poisons, known as "second-generation" or "single-feed" rodenticides, are sold under various product names, and contain the active ingredients brodifacoum, bromadiolone and difethialone. They kill rodents "after a single feeding." A rodent consumes the poison at a bait station, and then slowly dies of internal hemorrhage. What makes these poisons so dangerous to wildlife is that it takes four to seven days for the rodent to die. During this time rodents can consume more bait, raising the level of toxins in their bodies to a dose lethal to the larger animals that eat rodents and carrion, such as hawks and owls, and our pets. Removing rodent food sources and sealing off openings where rats can enter your home, is the only permanent solution. A natural form of rodent control through exclusion and predator support is the best way to go. Barn owls are voracious predators of rodents. One family of hungry barn owls can consume more than 3,000 rodents in a nesting season! (Source: WildCare News, Issue Autumn 2007)

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Volunteer Committee Openings



Please contact Karen Jost, City Clerk at (650) 941-7222, Ext. 126 to apply for openings on the following standing committees.

- Community Relations - 1 vacancy
- Environmental Design & Protection - 2 vacancies
- Environmental Initiatives - 1 vacancy
- Education Committee - 2 vacancies
- Historical Committee - 5 vacancies

Edith Park Community Bulb Planting Event - Saturday November 17th 10 AM to 3 PM

Green thumbs: You are invited to help plant more bulbs and bring Edith Park alive with colors again this year. (Edith Park is located at the corner of Edith and Fremont Roads in Los Altos Hills). If you would like to donate some iris tubers to the project and help to divide before planting, please contact Karen Druker at 650-941-8073. This project is possible from a generous contribution from Karen Druker and with the help of Town of Los Altos Hills and the LAH Parks and Recreation Committee. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Kids are welcome! For more information on this event, please contact coordinator Scott Vanderlip at (650) 948-6455.



(Note: Backup Rain Date - December 1st)

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CALENDAR



September 12th, Wednesday; Sudden Oak Death Informational Meeting 7 to 9 PM; Town Council Chambers; Sponsored by: LAH Open Space Committee; Speakers: California Oak Mortality Task Force, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District & Santa Clara County Agriculture Dept.; Info. 650-941-4808



Sept 20th, Thursday; 9-11 AM. Artist's Critique Session; followed by "Walk and Talk With The Artists" 11AM - Noon; All invited.

Founding of A New Historical Committee

In April 2007, the City Council approved the Community Relations Committee's recommendation that a new standing Historical Committee be created to ensure that the obligations for historical preservation set forth in the Town's General Plan are performed.

The mission of the new committee is to preserve our Los Altos Hills heritage, and includes several important goals:

- Implementing policies that preserve the historic and cultural fabric of our Town;
- Protecting historic and cultural resources from inappropriate destruction;
- Preserving community input into the policy-making process;
- Researching and documenting best practices and model preservation policies; and,
- Organizing and making available to the public the historic artifacts that have been preserved and continuing to collect historic artifacts for future generations.



There are several reasons for creating the new committee:

1. The Town's General Plan Goals calls for a program to implement historic preservation. None existed before the creation of the committee.
2. The listing of historic resources under the "Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures" requires updating now and in the future.
3. Historic resources and landmarks must be ranked as to their significance so that historic resources that may be eligible for protection under a Landmark status can be separated from those that may have lesser historical importance.
4. Many historical responsibilities have not been carried out for a period of 8-10 years due to the poor health of the Town's Historian.
5. The accumulation of historic artifacts remains unattended and is currently stored at the Town Maintenance Yard Barn and in a small room off of the Council Chambers at Town Hall.
6. A LAH book collection exists at Town Hall that needs to be catalogued and preserved.
7. Many excellent photos exist that should be preserved and documented.

At the August 7, 2007 City Council meeting, the City Council approved by resolution the new Historical Committee's charge, mission and terms of appointment of its five members. (The resolutions specified that nothing in the goals shall be interpreted as authorizing the mandatory historic preservation of private residences or require property owner to submit their pending site development plans before the Committee.) A posted call for recruitment volunteer appointments to the Historical Committee is now underway. Members will be appointed by the City Council.

NOTICE: Sanitary Sewer Spills

Starting August 1, 2007 the Town's contractor, CSMS is providing sanitary sewer maintenance and emergency response for the Town's entire wastewater collection system. We are working to minimize the frequency and impacts of sewer spills from the public sewer system. If you observe sanitary sewer spill from a sanitary sewer manhole on the roadway, pathway or private property, the sewer main underneath has a problem. Please call: Town Hall at (650) 941-7222, Monday through Friday 7:30am to noon, and 1:00 pm to 5:30pm, except holidays. County Communications: (408) 299-3233 during after-hours. If you observe slow drain, sewer backup in your house, or sewer spill from a sewer cleanout (concrete box) on your property or next to your property line, the building sewer line (lateral sewer line) may have a problem. You should call a plumber or contractor to look into it. It is property owner's responsibility to maintain and clean the building sewer. Building sewer is defined as the extension from the public sewer to the house drain (Usually 4-inch diameter pipe). With your help and efforts, let us keep our Town more beautiful and clean.

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CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

In the month of June, the City Council awarded a \$1,100,552.74 contract to low bidder G. Bortolotto & Company, Inc. for the 2007 Street Rehabilitation Project. Roadwork is already under way. Fourteen public streets are scheduled for major rehabilitation work including O'Keeffe Lane, Summitwood Road and Deerfield Drive. To find out when your street is scheduled for rehabilitation work, please contact Assistant Engineer John Chau at 947-2510.



City Manager Carl Cahill

The City Council awarded a \$ 717,080.00 contract to low bidder Granite Rock Company for the construction of Foothill College Bike Lane/Pathway (Moody/El Monte Roads Pathway Segment #2). This project is intended to divert bicycle and pedestrian traffic off of a very narrow and potentially hazardous section of El Monte Road and connect up with the recently constructed Moody Road pathway. Most of the money for this project will come from outside sources including \$100K from Foothill College and over \$400K from the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). Construction is scheduled to start in mid-August.

The City Council also adopted a 28.5% sewer rate increase in August after a 45-day public notice and protest period pursuant to Proposition 218. The annual sewer bill for a single family residence will go from \$570.34 to \$733.00. The specific increase was based upon the recommendations of the Sewer Rate Study prepared for the Town by the consulting firm of Hilton Farnkopf & Hobson. This sewer rate increase is the first one since July 2001. Revenue may only be used to fund maintenance, operations and treatment costs for the existing system. Rate increases may not be used for sewer system expansion. Further sewer rate increases will likely be necessary in coming years, as aging undersized pipes require replacement. However, any future proposed rate increases would again be subject to the required public notice and protest period.

The Town Hall solar expansion project was finished this past quarter. The new system is heliotropic and the panels follow the sun's apparent movement across the sky. The system provides renewable energy for the Town Hall, the Heritage House and the on-site Cingular Wireless facility. Other energy efficiency improvements completed this summer at Town Hall include insulation and dual pane windows for the Heritage House. These improvements along with others in the past four years have enabled the Town to become an officially certified green government agency by the Bay Area Green Business Program in June. The purpose in all of this is for the Town to lead by example in the area of environmental stewardship.

— Carl Cahill, City Manager



New Finance Director

Welcome Aboard Nicholas M. Pegueros

Public Service has always been the driving motivator for Nicholas M. Pegueros, the Town's newly appointed Finance Director. (He prefers to be called Nick!)



Nick Pegueros, Finance Director

Following graduation from Columbia University with a major in political science, Nick worked as a research analyst initially for a boutique market research firm and ultimately for Marsh & McLennan Company in NYC. In 2000, just prior to his decision to return to CA - Marsh & McLennan wanted to assign Nick to develop a disaster recovery plan for their NYC offices, including several floors located in the World Trade Center. It meant that he would have to relocate to the twin towers. Fortunately, as fate would have it, he decided instead to accept a management analyst position with the City of San Bruno and return to his home state of California.

For the past seven years he has risen through the ranks to become the Assistant Finance Director for the City of San Bruno, where the operating and capital budgets exceed \$80 million per year. The city's scope of services include police and fire protection, engineering and street maintenance; planning, building inspection and code enforcement; parks maintenance, recreation and senior services; public library, a redevelopment agency; water production, distribution and billing; waste water transmission; cable television and broadband internet services.

Because of his longtime employment in government, Nick is anxious to make every effort to minimize the bureaucratic process and work in an organization that emphasizes service to the community.

Nick was attracted to the LAH Finance Director position because of City Manager Carl Cahill's friendly approach to doing business and the collegial atmosphere of the Town Hall staff.

"On his very first day on the job, Nick jumped right in and successfully met several significant customer service challenges. I am very confident in Nick's ability to take the Town's Finance Department to the next level," comments Carl Cahill, City Manager.

"I appreciate taking pride in public service & building community, which often is not in the lexicon of today's younger workers. Many have an interest in the immediate personal- professional return by joining technology firms. Los Altos Hills was a perfect fit with my career aspirations," states Nick.

When asked about plans for improving our Town's financial status, Nick states that his goal is to safeguard the public funds and maintain a steady hand on the tiller. He will work closely with the LAH Finance Committee, which has done a great job in maximizing the return on our funds.

Welcome aboard, Nick!

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Why Is It Important to Reduce Pesticide Usage?

When it rains, pesticides used in maintaining landscapes and gardens are washed off the plants and soils they are used to protect. This stormwater runs off the landscape and flows to the nearest storm drain, which ultimately carries the water to a local creek of the San Francisco Bay without treatment. Pesticides carried with stormwater into creeks and the Bay may be harmful to fish and other organisms that live there. Minimizing use of pesticides in landscape maintenance helps protect water quality, aquatic life, and human health.



Debbie Pedro, Planning Director

Pest Reducing Landscape Design Techniques

- Design the landscape for efficient irrigation and drainage.
- Retain existing native, pest-resistant trees, shrubs and plants.
- Select pest-resistant plants adapted to your specific area. Consider site specific characteristics such as the soil, topography, climate, amount and timing of sunlight, prevailing winds, rainfall, ecological consistency and plant interactions.
- Plant at the right time of the year.



Pest Reducing Landscape Maintenance Techniques

- Employ nonchemical Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods such as biological controls (natural enemies or predators); physical controls (hand labor or mowing); cultural controls (mulching, discing, alternative plant type).
- If pesticides are necessary, use the least toxic pesticide available. Do not over apply pesticide. Spray only where the infestation exists.
- Do not overwater and maintain healthy soils by incorporating organic matter, making regular pH adjustments, and appropriately fertilizing.
- Apply 2-4 inches of mulch or geotextiles to exposed soils to prevent weed growth.
- Replace problem plants with locally-adapted, pest resistant plants.
Sources: Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program; Our Water-Our World, www.ourwaterourworld.org



Stinkwort or Stinkweed (Dittrichia graveolens)

Because stinkwort is a particularly troublesome invasive weed with potential to spread further, it is recommended that property owners remove them if possible. Property owners are responsible for the care and maintenance of trees, shrubs, and plants in the road right-of-way abutting their property. The recommended method for controlling stinkwort is application of herbicide at labeled rates. To minimize the amount of herbicide used, the plants can be cut at the base and bagged for disposal (Wear gloves!) and herbicide applied to the remaining cut stem. See newsletter insert for more information. If you want help identifying stinkwort on your property, contact the Los Altos Hills Open Space Committee at (650) 815-8286 or lahweeds@earthlink.net

For Council Agenda and Minutes,
See our Website:
www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

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Editor's Message

WHAT IS VOLUNTEERISM? WHY VOLUNTEER? WHAT IS THE REWARD?

LAH is very fortunate to have a highly educated population and residents who willingly support the community in many ways. Presently, the Town has a call for volunteers to serve on several of its committees.



Volunteerism is defined as the willingness of people to work on behalf of others without the expectation of pay or other tangible gain. It may be done for altruistic reasons - for charity or community service.

Those of us who volunteer know that the benefits of volunteerism are numerous - self satisfaction, altruism, and community improvement. Volunteers sometimes receive only modest recognition & reward. However, research has verified that staying active contributes to a healthier and longer life and that social supports are critical to healthy aging. Helping, teaching, mentoring and sharing experiences are sources of untold satisfaction at any age.

LAH has nine (9) Standing Volunteer Committees who are always seeking more volunteers. (See Call for Volunteers' Openings on page 6.)

If you are reading this and think that you might be interested in volunteering, please call Karen Jost, City Clerk at 650-941-7222 Ext. 126 and request an application. Remember, "Participation is its own reward."

— Duffy Price, Editor
Town Newsletter

Current Town Goals - Approved by City Council July 26, 2007

1. Significantly Enhance Resident Access to Recreational Facilities
2. Return Public Elementary School Education to Los Altos Hills
3. Develop a Plan for Expanded Sewer Access to More Residents
4. Maintain and Build Off and On Road Pathways Already Approved on the Pathways Master Plan
5. Complete the Redrafting and Approval of the Town General Plan
6. Complete the Undergrounding Pilot Project

THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

EARTHQUAKE DISASTER- Are you prepared?

By taking action to be prepared, you can lessen the impact of an earthquake on your family. You could be without help for at least 72 hours, so learn how to cope for at least that long. Movement of the ground is seldom the actual cause of death or injury. Most casualties result from partial building collapse and falling objects and debris, like toppling chimneys, falling bricks, ceiling plaster and light fixtures. Many of these conditions are easily preventable. Because earthquakes occur without warning, it's important to take steps now to prepare, so that you know what to do and how to respond- constructive, protective action is possible.



Items to have on hand in an earthquake:

- Water, at least 1 gallon of water per person per day
- Food- keep a supply of non-perishable food on hand that can be rotated into your regular diet.
- Flashlight and spare batteries- keep a flashlight by your bedside.
- Portable battery operated radio- most phones will be out of order in an earthquake.
- First-aid kit- have members of your house take basic first aid and CPR courses.
- Fire extinguisher- keep a fire extinguisher at home and in your car.
- Special needs- keep a supply of special needs items such as medicines, glasses, batteries and items for infants.
- Important papers and cash- be sure to have some cash on hand, ATM machines will not be working. Keep copies of important paper in your kit.
- Tools- have wrenches to shut off your utilities if needed.
- Clothes- think about your clothing and bedding needs as a family.
- Pet needs- identify a shelter in your area for your pet, ensure your pets have proper ID and up to date veterinarian records.

To learn more about what you and your family need to be prepared in an emergency, attend one of the **FREE** Personal Emergency Preparedness classes sponsored by the Santa Clara County Fire Department and the Los Altos Hills County Fire District. For a list of upcoming classes go to www.lahcfd.org. Sign up is easy and it is **Free** to any Los Altos Hills County Fire District resident. For more information contact Michael Sanders, Emergency Services Coordinator at 650-922-1055. Be prepared today, you never know when the next disaster will strike.

Red Cross Baby Sitting Certification Course

On Saturday, June 23 the Parks and Recreation Committee sponsored an all-day **Red Cross Baby Sitting Certification** course held at the Town Hall Chambers. The children ages 12 to 16 learned infant and child CPR, first aid, and safety tips as well as diaper changing and bottle-feeding. They all completed the course and received their Red Cross Babysitting Certificate. We will be offering this class again in the fall. Photo by Mrs. Julie Rockhold.



Back row L. to R.: American Red Cross Instructor: Lori Phillips, Sammy Scharninghausen, Juliet Powar, Lisa Lacampagne, Nikki Rockhold, Kayla Devila-Elrite, Bianca Carranza, Caroline Hickman.
(Not pictured: Steven Gaverick, Talle Warner)

VTA Pathway Funding



The Town received \$400K from the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) for Segments 1A & 1B of the Moody Road Pathway Project. Many thanks to the VTA for their assistance in improving our pathways.

Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

This is the official Town Newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government. The 2007 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is October 31, 2007.

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Los Altos Hills City Council

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